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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Renal disease				
Glomerulonephritis	Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)	Mouse studies suggest inhibiting heparin-binding EGF could help treat glomerulonephritis. In mice, expression of heparin-binding Egf was higher after induction of glomerulonephritis than that in healthy controls. In mice, selective deletion of Egfr from renal podocytes prevented glomerulonephritis-associated renal failure and decreased mortality compared with no deletion. Also in the mice, EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitors such as Tarceva erlotinib resulted in reduced renal pathology compared with vehicle. Next steps include evaluating EGFR inhibitors in additional animal models of glomerulonephritis and screening for high expression of heparin-binding EGF in patients. Tarceva, a small molecule EGFR inhibitor from Astellas Pharma Inc., Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. and Roche, is marketed to treat non–small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and pancreatic cancer. *SciBX* 4(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1096 Published online Oct. 6, 2011	Patented; available for licensing from INSERM Transfert S.A. **Contact:** Matthieu Collin, INSERM Transfert S.A., Paris, France e-mail: matthieu.collin@inserm-transfert.fr	Bollée, G. *et al. Nat. Med.*; published online Sept. 25, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2491 **Contact:** Pierre-Louis Tharaux, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), Paris, France e-mail: pierre-louis.tharaux@inserm.fr